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Published by Osprey Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 45 Volume 14

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INSIDE: Mayor looks ahead

MAYOR LOOKS AHEAD

Mayor Dave Augustyn outlines what is ahead for the new town council in the next few weeks, in the next few months and into the new term of Pelham town council.

The inaugural meeting will be on at 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on Regional Rd. 20. See page 2.

See inside:

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



JOE CSEH PelhamNEWS Photo

Pelham veterans remember during Remembrance ceremonies at Pelham Peace Park Sunday. See page 3.

HEROES

Cats save life of owner

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Nelson and Jinx are heroes missing in action.

The two young cats disappeared after they saved the life of their owner during a North Pelham house fire on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 30.

Kerri Hollingshead laid down for a nap in the lower level of her home around 3 p.m.

She woke up with the two house cats pawing at her face.

"She heard the fire, jumped up, kicked out the window and escaped," said her mother Debbie Hollingshead.

The fire destroyed the house at 1941 Balfour St. just north of Metter Rd. In North Pelham as well as a new SUV parked in the driveway.

"Those cats saved my daughter's life," said Debbie Hollingshead, who along with family and friends have searched for them in the fields around the home.

see HEROES | A7



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■ MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

'We have a strong council to move forward with': Augustyn

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Mayor Dave Augustyn said he is pleased and inspired by the decisive victory in the Oct. 25 municipal election.

"We have a strong council to move forward with," he said in an interview in his town hall offices.

For councillors, the next few weeks will be a low key period of getting to know one another as they "get their feet wet".

The new council takes over at an inaugural meeting 7 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Royal Canadian Legion hall. It will not have its first regular meeting until Monday, Dec. 13.

At the inaugural, the town will formally say good bye and thank you to councillors Jim Lane, Dave Emmons and Sharon Cook.

Augustyn praised the three councillors for their contributions to the town.

Lane, he said, was alert to spending issues. Emmons was the voice of common sense and the environment. Cook provided wide-ranging service on committees over two terms and was particularly good at bringing the concerns of the public to council.

He said retiring councillors Peter Papp, John Hurley and Debbie Urbanowicz will give council steady experience.

Augustyn said the transition period falls during the normal



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Mayor Dave Augustyn looks forward to working with the new council.

pre-holiday time. It provides opportunities for councillors to get to know each other, the town's department directors and the town's staff through a series of social events.

There will be a formal orientation day in late November that will outline procedural

matters and other details to the returning councillors and the new councillors Catherine King, Larry Clark and Gary Account.

"It will give us a chance to get as a team," he said about the transition period.

At the inaugural meeting, council will announce appoint-

ments to various advisory committees and council committees. Early in the new year, Augustyn said council will hold a strategic planning session that will lay out goals for the town into the future.

"We need a longer planning period than the current five

years" said Augustyn.

He suggested one stretching for 15 years with short term, middle term and long term action plans.

When you look back at the current strategic plan all of the goals "have been reached or are being worked on," he said.

The new one will include new concerns.

"Some of the councillors are talking about the environment and sustainability, which aren't even in the current strategic plan," he said.

"You need a long planning horizon," he said using the example of putting a system of trails and bike lane on roads to come in as roads and trails are upgraded.

It's also good to have plans ready to go when senior governments make money available.

"It's important to have the plan and to work the plan," he said.

Council will have to look at projects such as Fenwick library, downtown Fenwick and recommendations from the recreation facilities committee.

"It clear from the election, the public will want an input" into any plans for a recreation centre, he said.

The recreation facilities committee could bring in its report to the Dec. 13 council meeting.

The capital budget will be

third major item.

"It will go back to normal levels this year after \$14 million," last year.

The new library and planning designs for downtown Fenwick will be issues to review in the capital budget, he said.

Councillors will have to ensure completion of Haist St. Pelham St and the new Fenwick fire hall on time to qualify infrastructure funding.

The town will hold a pre-budget meeting for input from public on what they would want to see in the capital budget.

The mayor said these have helped council in its budgeting and lead to inclusion of sidewalk planning for Pelham St. and a community improvement plan downtown work in previous budgets.

"It's a time for listening to the community, no decisions will be made that night," he said.

The mayor said he likes his job.

"It's an honour to serve the community and gratifying to see things progress whether construction on Haist St. or new parks," he said. "I look forward to working with council and the community."

He chuckled when asked about seeing a validation in his almost 40th election victory.

"I'm humbled by the support I received from the community. It looks like they've hired me for another four years"

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■ REMEMBRANCE: Sunday tradition continues

3 ceremonies at community cenotaphs



JOE CSEH PelhamNews photo

Army cadets Danielle Rochett and Phillip Cox-Hurst stand guard during Remembrance ceremonies at Centennial Park in Fenwick Sunday.



JOE CSEH PelhamNews photo

Parade marches in for Remembrance ceremony at Fenwick Cenotaph in Centennial Park Sunday. ☛



Royal Canadian Legion members, local political leaders and cadets line up at the Old Pelham Town hall for Remembrance ceremonies on Sunday.

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 in Pelham held three services Sunday, visiting cenotaphs in Centennial Park in Fenwick, in Ridgeville at the Old Pelham Town Hall and at Peace Park in Fenwick.

On Thursday, it was scheduled to mark Remembrance Day with a ceremony in Pelham Veterans Park around the cenotaph in front of the legion's hall.

The legion's poppy chairman, Ron Walker, said Pelham is an amalgamated community and each of those communities has its own cenotaph. As Pelham's Legion, he said Branch 613 is obligated to commemorate each of those cenotaphs.

"We have to honour those cenotaphs. We can't leave them out," he said.

Walker said 20 wreaths were laid at Peace Park, along with a dozen more at the cenotaph in Fenwick and about 10 at the Ridgeville memorial.

There were also several young people involved in the ceremonies, such as Grade 9 E.L. Crossley Secondary School student Katie Lewis who played trumpet during the event. He said another

student from Notre Dame, Rachel Bruch, participated in the ceremonies, singing O Canada and God Save the Queen.

In the past, he said the legion has relied on pre-recorded music for The Last Post or the national anthem.

"Sometimes, it would work out and sometimes it wouldn't."

He recalled one ceremony when the equipment quit working halfway through O'Canada.

"We thought let's do away with canned music. Let's get some live people in here and do this right."

In addition to recently recent conflicts recognized during Remembrance Day, another war was also remembered during the ceremonies.

Nora Reid, whose ancestors fought in the War of 1812, was at the cenotaph to lay a wreath to remember the sacrifices made almost 200 years ago during the War of 1812.

"That anniversary is coming up in a couple of years," Walker said. "They're getting the groundwork ready for it and getting on with it."

Organizers of plans to commemorate the bicentennial of that war will return to local cenotaphs Thursday, Nov. 11, along with soldiers dressed in period costume.

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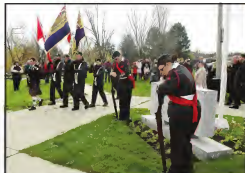
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REUTERS



Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Dave Weeks lays a wreath during ceremonies at Old Pelham Town Hall.



JOE CSEH PelhamNews Photo

Army cadets Danielle Rochett and Phillip Cox-Hurst stand guard at Pelham Peace Park.



Nora Reid lays a wreath in memory of War of 1812 veterans.

comment

Working to prevent human smuggling

I am very pleased to see that our government is delivering on its commitment to crack down on human smugglers who seek to abuse Canada's Immigration system.

In recent weeks, we have tabled legislation that aims to strengthen Canada's ability to prosecute human smugglers, deter those that seek to jump the immigration queue, prevent human smuggling operations before they leave for Canada and maintain the integrity and fairness of our immigration system.

I think it also sends a strong message that those proposed



Dean Allison
FROM THE HILL

changes were announced were the illegal migrant vessel that landed with 76 Tamils a number of months ago is moored.

Every year, Canada welcomes hundreds of thousands of new Canadians into our neighbourhoods and communities. We do so out of the belief that our economy needs hard-working people with hopes and dreams to help strengthen

our country's future.

Unfortunately, as many readers were surely made painfully aware a number of months ago, there is a growing problem of mass arrivals through human smuggling. By abusing our system, illegal migrants are jumping ahead of low-skilled people patiently waiting to start a new opportunity and a new life in Canada.

That's why our Government is fighting back with fair, reasonable and tough action to prevent the abuse of Canada's immigration system by human smugglers.

SEE ALLISON | A5

A serene Remembrance

The weather on Sunday morning was glorious. The leaves on the ground and a few in the tree reminded us that Fall was upon us. The sun shone beautifully through the trees and the air was clear and sweet.



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

It felt like an idyllic Fall morning. It felt so peaceful and so serene. It felt like the perfect example of freedom, of promise, and of individual choice.

The weather made it feel so far from the ravages of war. I felt so far from oppression and from tyranny. The twin-prop airplane we heard overhead was for recreation, not a vehicle of war or destruction.

And yet, Pelham residents took time to gather with members of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary, the Royal Canadian Army Cadets, and others at the Cenotaph at Centennial Park, Old Town Hall, and Peace Park to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of Pelham's Veterans.

Each Remembrance Day it is right to remember those brave men and women who have served, and who continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict, and peace.

We honour them for their courage, their commitment, and their devotion to Canada and her people.

They served our country and gave their lives so that future generations might have democracy; so that we might enjoy safety and security; so that our society is one of justice and the rule of law; so that we might enjoy mornings like last Sunday.

The freedoms that so many of us might take for granted — to express ourselves, to participate in cultural, religious, and political activities, to come and go as we please, to pursue a safe and happy life — are due to the sacrifices of Veterans and those who today follow in their footsteps.

They sacrificed their futures so that our future might be in peace. The men and women of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan are fighting still, for these same principles.

SEE AUGUSTYN | A5

perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Christmas season is coming at us

Now that Remembrance Day has passed Pelham is shifting into Christmas mode.

The Pelham Business Association is organizing its Christmas in Pelham event to encourage shoppers to look around their town for those extra special gifts.

The PBA will hold its fifth annual "take a look at what we have" event on Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4.

Local school choirs and entertainers will help local stores get into the spirit season with music in the stores.

To help everyone get into the giving spirit of the season is 21st annual Pelham Food Drive. Organizer Gerry Berkout is lining up vans, trucks, drivers and volunteers to cover the urban areas of Fenwick and Fonthill.

Food from the drive goes to Pelham Cares as well as the Hope Centre and Open Arms Ministries, in Welland, and the Salvation Army. To volunteer call Berkout at 905-892-6988 or email berkley@co.gc.ca.

Meanwhile, the Pelham Santa Clause Parade Committee and the Fenwick Lions Club are lining up floats and other units for the 2010 Santa Claus Parade.

The 13th annual parade is in Fenwick starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

You can find an application form for the parade on the Town of Pelham website at www.pelham.ca. You can contact parade marshal Fred Disher at 905-892-3025.

The Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers will hold open house this weekend and next weekend.

The Maple St. club house in downtown Fenwick is open Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday Nov. 20 and Sunday Nov. 21 from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the coming season.



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Welcome to the New Normal

Last week the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) announced that it was boosting its forecast for home sales activity via the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) Systems of Canadian real estate boards and Associations for 2010 and 2011.

Sales activity in the third quarter of 2010 was weaker than expected causing the Association to revise its 2010 annual projection to 442,200 units, representing an annual decline of 4.9 per cent over 2009 results. This projection continues to be 1.7 higher than the total of 434,477 units achieved in 2008 but 15,656 below the level of 450,133 units recorded during the market peak year of 2007.

Housing statistics in our local marketplace are reflecting the same national trends. As of the end of October, year to date sales totaled 181 units compared to 189 in 2009 - representing a 4.4% decline over the previous year. However, this level is 8.7% above the 2006 level of 165 and just 10.8%



Cathy
Berkhout-Bosse
REAL ESTATE
VIEW

below the 2007 high of 203 units.

Niagara as a region appears to be faring much better than the national average. The October month end year-to-date sales figure of 4569 continues to be 3.5% ahead of last year's total of 4,432. However, it should also be noted that Niagara's 2008 result was the lowest year in recent record.

It is important to take a long-term perspective when reviewing year over year comparisons. Levels of sales activity have swung widely between quarters and annual time frames during the past three years.

According to the recent CREA media release, "Despite this volatility, movements in sales activity and new listings have remained in synch and have kept the resale housing market

balanced since early 2010. The overall supply of homes for sale has also been trending lower in recent months. The resale housing market has remained balanced on a national basis and in most provinces, resulting in stable average price trends."

Welcome to the new normal.

Expect lower unit sales, reduced inventory levels, more cautious buyers, longer market time frames and slower average price increases.

As we begin to look towards 2011, CREA's revised projection for 2011 is predicting that annual unit sales in Ontario will drop 10% below 2009. If this forecast is accurate, sales activity in Pelham will be roughly equivalent to 2006 levels - and that certainly was good year - or perhaps not? Depends on your perspective.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, H.B.A. is a real estate broker and writer living in Pelham. You may reach past columns at nniagara@realestateview.com.

■ ALLISON

Giving law enforcement the tools it needs to do its job

FROM PAGE A4

The Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act will ensure law enforcement have the tools they need to crack down on human smugglers.

The new measures in the proposed legislation include mechanisms that make it easier to prosecute human smugglers; the imposition of mandatory prison sentences on convicted human smugglers; and holding ship owners and operators to account for use of their ships in human smuggling operations.

The act also contains numerous measures to deter individuals from engaging human smugglers to come to facilitate their transportation to Canada

such as seeking to ensure that illegal migrants who obtain refugee status can be re-assessed within five years to determine whether they still need protection or can be returned to their country of origin; ensuring that the health benefits the illegal migrants receive are not more generous than those received by the Canadian public; enhancing the ability to terminate the protected person status of those who return to their country of origin for a vacation or demonstrate in other ways that they are not in legitimate need of Canada's protection; and preventing illegal migrants from sponsoring family members for five years.

Canada does doers for those who work hard and play by the rules. At the same

time, our government is cracking down on those who try to take advantage of our generosity by abusing our fair and welcoming immigration system.

I feel that this is a fair and balanced approach that keeps the door open for those honest and hard-working people who wish to come to Canada through the proper channels and encourages those who would consider other methods to seriously reconsider.

The Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act can be accessed on my website at www.DeanAllison.ca.

Dean Allison is the Member of Parliament for Niagara West-Glanbrook, which includes Pelham.

■ TRAVEL: Canada and Via Rail by the rules deal

Military personnel, vets and families get rail discount

For PelhamNEWS

OTTAWA — The government of Canada in partnership with VIA Rail announced an offer for military personnel, veterans and their families of a 25 per cent year-round discount of the best available fare.

"Our government is pleased to continue its ongoing partnership with VIA Rail to modernize our rail systems and provide all Canadians with safe and sustainable passenger rail service," said MP Dean Allison.

"With the announcement, even more of our Canadian heroes and those who love them will be able to take advantage of this enhanced service."

This new offer, which started Nov. 1, applies to all classes of VIA services, including economy, business and sleeper. The 25 per cent discount off the best available fare has no route or date restrictions.

The Forces' members and veterans who qualify may be accompanied by up to five additional family members. These family members will be eligible for the discount provided they travel on the same trains, dates and in the same classes as the Forces' members or veterans.

Proper identification will be required to be eligible for this offer and some conditions may apply.

"Our Veterans and their families have made great sacrifices so that we can live in a democratic and free country," said Allison.

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■ AUGUSTYN

Let us be thankful on this Remembrance Day

FROM PAGE A4

Indeed, it is right to remember their sacrifice and determination on Remembrance Day too.

On these centapaths throughout our Town and at Veteran's Park, the names of

some of those from Pelham who were killed in service and in battle are engraved. May they also be engraved in our minds and on our hearts.

And so, on this Remembrance Day 2010, let us be thankful. Let us rededicate ourselves to

peace. And let us never forget.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Fonthill United Church community work

Homes for the Holidays Tour Nov. 20

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Décor, theme and the personality of the owner all play a role in decorating a home.

Not every Christmas item fits, said Karin Vermeer of Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop.

You have to consider the style of the house. What's appropriate for an older house may not fit in a new one, she said.

She is one of seven decorators donating their time to prepare six homes and Fonthill United Church for 7th Homes for the Holidays Tour to raise funds for the church.

Renita Damm-Kiers of J&J Floral Expressions said you can't just take stock from your shop and move it into a house.

"It takes a lot more planning and study than that," she said.

Jennifer De Haan of Forever Flowers was fascinated with theme set up by the homeowner she was working with and try to match the owner's personality with her decorating with her Christmas theme decorations.

Kelly Price and Donna Schenck of Beyond The Front Door said they were newcomers to the Pelham tour.

They looked forward to working in the town with its friendly feel and saw it as a chance to get their St. Catharines shop known locally.

Damm-Kiers, who has worked on all seven tours, said the Homes for the Holidays is an excellent pro-



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Some of the local decorators donating their skills for a Fonthill United Church fundraiser gather at J&J Floral Expressions to promote the seventh Homes for the Holidays tour on Saturday, Nov. 20. From left are: Karin Vermeer of Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop, Jennifer DeHaan of Forever Flowers, Renita Damm-Kiers of J&J Floral Expressions, and, Kelly Price and Donna Schenck of Beyond The Front Door. Other decorators participating are Elizabeth's Home Décor, In the Village and Floral Dimensions.

motion for decorators. They get great feed back.

Tickets for the tour at \$18 each are now on sale, said co-chair Carolyn van der Sluis. Money raised goes to Fonthill United Church's projects.

"In one way or another it goes back into the community," she said.

The tour on Nov. 20 runs

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes tea, coffee, cider and scones at the church at Canboro Rd. and Church Hill.

"People say the like our tour because the houses are close together and they enjoy seeing the different styles of decorating," she said.

Last year 328 tickets were sold and she hopes to get it

up to 400.

Beyond the Front Door in St. Catharines and Floral Dimensions from Fenwick are two new decorators for this tour.

The other five are J&J Floral Expressions of Fonthill, Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop on South Pelham St. in Welland,

Elizabeth's Home Décor of Fonthill, Forever Flowers of Fenwick, and In the Village in Ridgewill.

Floral Dimensions will provide table centre pieces for the refreshment area in the church. Rice Road Greenhouses has donated plants to decorate the church hall.

To help you carry your

shoes through the houses on the tour, Sobey's will provide plastic bags.

The organizing committee consists of van der Sluis and co-chair Virginia Haun along with Margaret Kirkwood and Patrice Walker.

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HEROES

'You're suddenly left with nothing, not even a toothbrush'

FROM PAGE A1

"They are probably afraid to come back and unfamiliar with the outside since they are indoor cats," she said with a voice hoarse from calling them.

She hopes people living in the area will watch for them and bring them back or call her at 905-892-3547.

Nelson is a fluffy black neutered male about eight months old and Jinxy is a very fluffy neutered male with white legs and dark grey body.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined following investigation, said Fire Chief Scott McLeod. The fire involved firefighters from the three stations under the direction of Fire Station No. 3 on Sixteen Rd.

Debbie Hollingshead, who lives down Balfour St. from the home of her daughter and husband Jamie Gregoire, said she had a special thanks for the firefighters and volunteers who "endured this awful blaze through the wee hours of the morning."

The house was insured but

the experience was a shock for the family.

"You're suddenly left with nothing, not even a toothbrush," she said.

"The Hollingshead and Gregoire families would like to express our sincere appreciation to neighbours, friends family and to folks unknown who have come forward to support and donate during this horrific time."

The families are arranging for demolition of the damaged home and will bring in a trailer for the couple to live in while new one is built. Gregoire operates a concrete business from the second building on the property.

The new car destroyed in the fire was owned by a dealership in Grimsby where Kerr Hollingshead works.

It replaced the car. "Everyone has been wonderful," said Debbie Hollingshead.

"Now we just have to find our little heroes."

wcampbell@
wellandtribune.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL
Staff Photo

The owners of this Balfour St. home in North Pelham destroyed by fire on Oct. 30 are looking for two cats that saved the life of their owner by waking her up from an afternoon nap. The three fled the house but the house cats have not been found.

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Day 4: 4 calling birds	Day 8: Eight maids a milking	Day 12: Twelve drummers drumming

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EDUCATION: Job shadowing and co-op programs

High school students in workplaces for a day and semester

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

THOROLD – Jim Gallie understands the value of job shadowing and co-op experience.

The owner of JTG Computers found his career through E.L. Crossley Secondary School's co-operative program.

When he was in high school, he took the course.

"Some kids just can't learn out of a textbook," he said. "They need hands-on experience."

Last week, he brought his cousin Joshua Steinhoff to his Turner's Corners shop as part of Take Our Kids to Work Day.

The Grade 9 student from Crossley joined Stephanie Farr, a Crossley co-op student studying website design, to work with Gallie and his staff.

"The co-op program provides an entirely different experience," said Gallie.

"You see a different kind of responsibility from the people

you work with. You learn a lot about life skills. It's a different perspective."

Farr said she is enjoying her one-term co-op experience, which she began in September.

"I've put together a website and learned a lot about new programs," she said.

"It didn't know what I wanted to do, but I did like doing stuff with computers," she said about trying the co-op program. "So far I like it."

Steinhoff during his one-day job-shadowing learned how to take a computer apart and put it back together.

"Pull it out slow and straight," he was told about removing a card.

Steinhoff said he was interested in computers and liked working on the units.

Take Our Kids to Work Day is a one-day experience for Grade 9 students to see what their parents or relatives did. The national program is an introduction to the atmosphere of a workplace.

Last week in Niagara, more than 3,000 employers hosted about 5,000 Grade 9 students in the 16th annual Take Our Kids to Work Day, said Pauline Carroll, special events coordinator of the Business Education Council of Niagara's Labour Force Development division.

Some employers carried out simple job shadowing while others had more elaborate introductory programs, she said.

"It's also a first glimpse during high school into the different careers that they may consider after they graduate," she said.

The BEC organized the day with the support of the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board, and, business, industry and community partners.

E.L. Crossley had 127 students involved in Wednesday's Take Our Kids to Work Day.

Meanwhile, the co-operative



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

John Gallie, left, owner of JTG Systems.com, shows Joshua Steinhoff and Stephanie Farr of E.L. Crossley Secondary School some fine points of website design. Steinhoff worked at the Regional Rd. 20 computer store for Take Our Kids to Work Day while Farr is gaining experience in web design through the school's co-operative program.

program, offered in most area high schools such as Crossley, Notre Dame, Eastdale and Centennial, involves Grade 11 and 12 students.

For a semester at a time, students spend half a day or a day in a workplace learning about its operation and occupations while earning school credits.

Crossley co-operative co-

ordinator Andrew Petrychuk said the school has 30 students out in the co-op program this semester in a variety of workplaces.

"We're always looking for employers interested in participating," he said. "They just have to contact the school and ask for the co-ordinator."

Gallie began JTG Systems.

com about five years ago working out of his home. He opened his storefront office about a year ago at Regional Rd. 20 and the Merrittville Hwy.

The co-op experience in high school gave him a perspective and confidence to go into business, he said.

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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Good crowd at gala

Auction draws funds for new library branch

PelhamNEWS Staff

A bid to build a new Fenwick branch of the Pelham Public Library came a little closer Monday

night.

The Friends of the Pelham Library drew a lively crowd of buyers to its 11th annual Christmas Gala.

A couple of tense hours preceded the evening. The Foothill branch was blacked out by a power failure when a transformer went down.

An hour before the gala,

library staff were lighting candles, said special events co-ordinator Melanie Taylor-Ridgway.

Hydro crews got the lights on in time.

The gala combined a wine and cheese party with silent and live auctions.

Auctioneer Brian Sullivan, who has played the role for all 11 years said


the annual fundraiser has proven a sound event.

Early estimates on Tuesday indicate the library raised about \$3,300 during the night.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Ruth Newell jots down a bid in the Pelham Public Library's silent auction as part of the annual Christmas Gala sponsored by the Friends of the Pelham Library.



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Travel Medicine

If you are planning a vacation for Christmas or March break it is time to start thinking about vaccinations and travel medicine that you may need.

It is very important for travelers to get their hepatitis vaccinations. Hepatitis A is spread through contaminated food and water. The vaccine is best given as two doses 6 months apart. Hepatitis B is spread through sexual contact, piercings, contaminated medical equipment etc. It can be a problem for patients if you need medical attention while away. The usual 3-dose schedule for the hep B vaccine is at 0, 1, and 6 months. There is a combined vaccine for both hep A and B. There are other dosing schedules available if you are running out of time, but you should consult the doctor or pharmacist about what dosing schedule is best for you. You should also have your children vaccinated if they are travelling with you.

There are no vaccines for hepatitis C, D, and E, but they are less common in travelers. Hep C and D are spread through blood, and hep E is spread through the oral-fecal route. It is best to avoid high-risk activities such as piercings, acupuncture and tattooing, as well as to be careful about food and water precautions and hand washing to avoid these forms of hepatitis.

Traveler's diarrhea plagues many individuals. It is caused by eating or drinking food or water contaminated with germs. If you have three or more episodes of diarrhea in one day, you probably have traveler's diarrhea. Your doctor can prescribe an antibiotic for you to take with days if you run in to trouble. You want to get enough antibiotics to last for three days. If you don't develop fever or blood in your stool you can take Imodium with your antibiotic. If you are travelling with children and they develop traveler's diarrhea you need to take special care to help them avoid dehydration.

There is also an oral traveler's Diarrhea vaccination called Dukoral. Presently the vaccine is being recommended to high-risk patients. This would include patients who are immunosuppressed, patients with chronic illness, and those who have had many bouts of traveler's diarrhea.

For certain destinations Malaria prophylaxis is also being recommended. Recently travelers to the Dominican Republic have been advised to take antimalarial medication. Patients travelling to high risk areas can prevent Malaria infection by avoiding mosquito bites and taking certain medications. Some areas are resistant to medications that are available. Travelers should learn what the best medication is for the area they will be travelling to. It is best to go to a travel clinic to see what medications they recommend for your destination. Some of the medications need to be started the week before departure so it is best not to leave getting these medications until the last minute.

In order to prepare yourself and your family for an upcoming vacation do some research in to what vaccines and precautions need to be taken for your destination. Give yourself plenty of time to get in to the doctor and get your prescriptions. Some of the vaccines need to be started at least six months before you leave. If you plan ahead everyone can have a safe and healthy vacation.

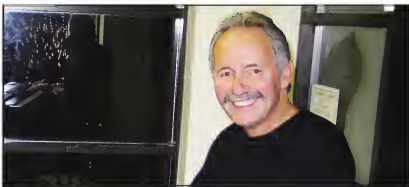
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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Auctioneer Brian Sullivan pulls out the bids at the Pelham Public Library's annual Christmas Gala live auction. He has directed the auction for 11 years. Assisting him is Barb Somerville.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Frank Krahn performs during the Pelham Public Library's Christmas Gala Monday at the Library.

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■ **FOOD:** Canadian Federation of University Women

Supplier photo

Margaret Kleinsmith, chair of the local arrangements committee and Lynn Ogryzlo, local food writer and founder of the Niagara Culinary Trail, chat at the Canadian Federation of University Women's Ontario South Fall Gathering.

Value of supporting local farmers discussed

For PelhamNEWS

Farm to Fork, a Locavore Strategy, was the theme of the Canadian Federation of University Women's Ontario South Fall Gathering hosted by the CFUW Welland and District Club at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club Saturday.

Members from the clubs throughout the Ontario South Region were joined by Cheryl Hayles Regional Director for Ontario South, Myra Willis, president of the Ontario Council, and were honoured to have Brenda Wallace, the National President of CFUW from Regina, Saskatchewan in attendance.

Break out groups on club issues of fundraising and leadership were presented by

various club members.

As well local restaurateur Marc McKeercher of August a popular "locavore" restaurant in Beamsville, Carol Lloyd owner of Nature's Corner in Ridgville and Lynn Ogryzlo.

They all presented very passionate and informative messages about appreciating food grown locally and valuing and supporting the farmers who produce our food.

The day culminated with a mini market featuring vendors with local and fair trade products for sale.

Committee members of the local CFUW Welland and District Club were very pleased with the turnout and success of the day.

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■ **SERVICE:** Fonthill club hosts district leader

Rotary governor says be bigger, better, bolder

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Karen Oakes carried in a message and carried out cash.

The district governor of Rotary District 7090 told the Rotary Club of Fonthill to beware of complacency.

"If you keep doing what you're doing, you start to fall off," she said.

It is a trend businesses notice, said the retired bank employee.

"Be bigger, be better, be bolder," she told the Rotary members at their morning meeting last week at Cafe on Main.

"We all need to do that," She encouraged initiative and praised Fonthill Rotary for its work within community by assisting with bandshell

concerts and establishing youth clubs at E.L. Crossley Secondary School and A.K. Wigg Public School.

"If you got an idea, go for it," she said.

She encouraged the club to have a member designated to increase youth participation. It will directly build future membership.

The district governor gave the local club certificates recognizing its membership growth and retention as well as its local leadership.

In exchange, the club gave her \$2,200 for the International Rotary Foundation as well as \$150 for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

The campaign began in 1983 with a hope to wipe out the disease by 1985.

"In 2010, we still have polio,"

Oakes said.

"The reality is, it's only a plane ride away. We have to get the message out to end it."

The message has to spread across both developed and developing countries.

Oakes is a member of the Delhi Rotary Club, which is at the very west end of Rotary District 7090.

The district straddles an international border. It has 73 clubs with 40 in New York State and 33 in Ontario.

"We're called the Best of Friends district," she said.

It's Buffalo club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in April 2011.

"Keep the date in mind and join the party."

wcampbell@
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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Karen Oakes, district governor for Rotary District 7090, left, and Patricia Duncan, Rotary Club of Fonthill president, exchange congratulations during a visit by the district governor to the Fonthill club Wednesday morning.

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■ ART: Judge pares submissions down to 48 from 90

Pelham artist takes first in juried art show

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — Considering the quality of artwork that hung from the walls of the Pelham Library, choosing the top three paintings was extremely difficult for David Gilbert.

He looked at four-by-six images of the artwork to narrow the list of submissions down to 48 from 90. He then studied the real paintings to choose the best entries in the Pelham Art Association's juried art show.

But Gilbert, a director for the Niagara Falls Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Welland and the Niagara Children's Museum, saw one painting in particular that really captured his interest.

"I always kept coming back to the (painting)," he said Friday when announcing the winners of the juried art show. "It attracted me from the moment I opened up the package. It had a lot of movement to it, a lot of internal energy."

He was referring to a painting called *Whisper in the Wind* by Pelham artist Patricia Hafta. The painting took the \$500 first-place award.

Gilbert provided the audience of nearly 100 people

a critique of each of the paintings he considered for awards. He also gave the artists in attendance a few tips on how to create even better works of art, ranging from advice about picture frames to the need for small details in some of the compositions.

For the first time, the Pelham art show was opened to competition from throughout southern Ontario, and Gilbert was happy to see the expansion of the annual show.

"It's great to see the Welland and Pelham area become a venue for artists

from other areas," he said.

Hafta also was pleased to see more local artists participating in the show. She said three artists she often spends time painting with had never entered a show before chose to display their work at the Pelham Art Association show.

One of them was Leslie Canon, whose painting, *Roy*, took second place and a \$300 award.

"It is fantastic. It's wonderful for them because it takes a lot of courage to put your stuff out there because everyone has an opinion and they do not hesitate to tell what it

is," she said.

The third-place award worth \$200 went to a painting called *Trues* by Diane Slaight. Ten other paintings received honorable mentions and other prizes. The paintings, which are also on sale, will be on display at the library until Monday, Nov. 29.



Patricia Hafta adds a tag saying "First Place" below her own painting called *Whisper in the Wind* at Pelham Library Friday after the winners of the Pelham Art Association art show were announced.

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

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Pelham Cares president Gail Hilyer, left, receives a cheque for 29,728.77 from Mayor Dave Augustyn that was raised at the Pelham 2nd annual Mayor's Gala. The money will be used for Connecting Kids a program operated by Pelham Cares to assist low income children to participate in local camps, sports and education activities. With the two are Betty Brown, Pelham Cares client services co-ordinator, and vice-president Paul Winkler.



George Kowalski, left, and Harold Griffin received lifetime achievement awards at the Pelham Cares Volunteer Appreciation Night at Pelham Community Church. They have volunteered with Pelham Cares for more than 20 years.

■ APPRECIATION: They make the organization go

Pelham Cares praises its volunteers

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Pelham Cares shows its cares for its volunteers.

More than 80 people attended the social service agency's Volunteer Appreciation Night at Pelham Community Church Monday. Volunteers is what makes the organization go, said president Gail Hilyer.

Pelham Cares received a boost to its Connecting Kids program with a big donation on a big cheque.

Mayor Dave Augustyn presented \$29,728 to Pelham Cares for the Connecting Kids program.

It was money raised at the second annual Mayor's Gala held earlier this year plus related money that came in after the event.

Augustyn praised the merchants who supplied prizes and sponsorships for the mayor's gala and members of the community who paid to attend it.

He also praised the Connecting Kids service which allows children to play hockey, ball hockey, baseball, soccer, figure skate, and take piano lessons.

When family budgets get tight, such fees is the one area families cut back on, he said.

Connecting Kids is one of four programs offered by Pelham Cares. It provides fund for children who can't afford fees for local day camps, sports or education programs.

Pelham Cares also runs a food bank, provides rides and acts as a referral service for social service agencies with offices in Pelham.

Through the evening Pelham Cares saluted volunteer work.

George Kowalski and Harold Griffin received lifetime achievement awards for more than 20 years of volunteering with Pelham Cares often serving as the food collecting team when donations are picked up at schools and other locations.

Brian Cooby of the Niagara Ontario Provincial Police Auxiliary explained its annual food collection day at Sobey's around Niagara.

It started with the Sobey's in Fonthill during the annual Pelham Food Drive five years ago. Since then they have collected four tons of food and \$6,200 in cash. The event has expanded to Sobey's in Welland, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

"Volunteers make better communities," he said referring to the motto of his volunteer auxiliary.

Rod Richards of the Fonthill Volunteer Firefighters outlined the 21-year-old Toy Drive that supplements Pelham Cares' annual Christmas Basket program.

In the past couple of years it included pet food in the drive.

Pelham Cares saluted Gerry Berkhout as organizer of the Pelham Food Drive, which provides food for Pelham Cares as well as Open Arms Mission, the Hope Centre and Salvation Army.

This year's food drive is on Saturday, Dec. 4.

"We had a wonderful turnout at the dinner," said Hilyer about the appreciation event.

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■ **TRANSPORTATION:** St. Catharines Fourth Ave.

Roads leading to new hospital get makeover

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ST. CATHARINES - While the construction of the new St. Catharines hospital continues on Fourth Ave., with its massive cranes and rising towers, a new phase of the

project has quietly begun. No less important, if not nearly as flashy, work on the roads near the hospital is scheduled to begin this month. The repositioning of hydro lines will begin soon along Fourth Ave. in anticipation of road widening and

new traffic lights around the hospital.

John Rizzo, project manager in Niagara's transportation engineering department, said eventually the narrow road leading up to the hospital will be widened and will look similar to the

four-lane roads that pass by the Fourth Ave. big box shopping plazas.

The changes are not solely due to the presence of the hospital, Rizzo said, although it certainly is an important factor.

A traffic study of west

St. Catharines indicated changes needed to be made, he said, and the hospital adds to the need for wider roads in the area.

Fourth Ave. is only part of the remodelling to be done. Hwy. 406 is expected to have a new interchange

that will lead directly to the hospital.

The exact location and details of the interchange are being worked out and proposals are expected to be ready for public input sometime in late November or early December, Rizzo said.



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■ CROSS COUNTRY



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E.L. Crossley's Megan Rempel won OFSAA Gold at the OFSAA Cross Country Championships on Nov. 6. After placing first at Zone and SOSSA in the Midget Girls division, Megan continued to run with a tough winning attitude to win OFSAA Gold with a time of 10:49 in her 3K race. In earlier competition, E.L. Crossley won the overall Zone title and also the girls overall title in Cross Country on Oct. 22. All six Crossley teams moved on to SOSSA. The outstanding commitment by many athletes made their coaches Marty Edwards and Maryann Mergl very proud. Six individual runners plus one athlete made their OFSAA by placing in the top 3 at SOSSA. Team Photo of Zone winners (no order in photo), top left, Midget Girls that competed at SOSSA: Megan Rempel, Katy Chyzchun, Brenna Ward, Amanda Liebau and Lindsey Richer. Midget Boys: Eric Deba, James Ferguson, Connor McKendrick, Kris Blodreau and Andrew Hryciuk. Junior Girls: Kathryn Hryciuk, Maria Gearing, Luisa Marvel, Katie Lewis and Rachel Carson. Junior Boys: Alex Dellelmonache, Tyler Young, Tanner MacJanet and Nathan Hennessy. Senior Girls: Karley Rempel, Ailannah MacDonald, Emily Gearing, Katie Kalchman, Jillian Young and Erin Prysinszky. Senior Boys: Phil Hering, Andrew Scotland, Mitchell Deba, Josh Mashinter and Mitchell Dellelmonache. Above, OFSAA competitors: Alex Dellelmonache Jr. Boy 5km placed 80th, Kathryn Hryciuk Jr. Girl 4km placed 34th, Ailannah MacDonald Sr. Girl 5km placed 115th, Megan Rempel Mgt Girl 3km placed 1st, Karley Rempel Sr. Girl 5km placed 18th and Phil Hering Sr. Boy 7km placed 70th at OFSAA.

■ ATOM HOCKEY

Pelham practice rivals battle it out

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham AutoPark SuperStore Gators Atom Hockey Team met their practice ice rivals, Pelham Team No.1, at the Pelham Arena.

The Gators started out a little sluggish and found themselves in a 2-0 hole at the end of the 1st period.

But part-way through the second period, the line of Nicholas Chambers, Reid Murray and Taylor Montgomery got the ball rolling when Chambers beat

the goalie on the high side. The assist went to Murray.

A short time later, Dan Durkin netted his first of the season helped by Rowan McLellan and Jeremy Pollard.

The Gator's blueliners, Tristan Barnhart, Ryan Moffat, Dean Coates and Tucker Ingalls, along with goalie, Nicholas Yiodlassis, deserve a lot of the credit for getting their team back into the game.

Before the end of the period, Nick Chambers added another goal to the scoreboard with the

assistance of Robbie Harper and Kayla Egertter, and Ryan Moffat and Nick Yiodlassis successfully denied an exciting 2-on-1 rush.

The Gator's strong play continued into the third. The offense, especially Reid Murray, mounted several rushes into the opposition territory only to be denied at the net.

Finally, Kayla Egertter scored her first goal of the season helped by Robbie Harper and Reid Murray. In the end, the clock wasn't the team's friend and the game ended in a 4-5 loss.



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■ **HOCKEY:** PeeWee Rep team drops Grimsby

Mergl gets first shutout

For PelhamNEWS

Jacob Mergl of the Pelham Panthers Shoppers Drop Mart PeeWee AE Rep hockey team got his first shut-out of the season on Saturday by defeating Grimsby 1-0.

His fantastic positional play frustrated the opposition in being scoreless. Michael Kohli was there to support his fellow net minder.

Pelham's lone goal scorer was David Coyne by taking opportunity of a loose puck that Raj Sahi shot in, which was passed by Theoren Leavens.

■ **HOCKEY:** Holding its own

Shorthills peewees off to great start

In PeeWee Local League hockey, the Shorthills Fire & Rescue team is off to a great start this season.

After a sluggish first game against Niagara-on-the-Lake resulting in a big loss, the team rallied and has held their own since.

Its second game against another Niagara-on-the-Lake team was ended in a 2-2 tie after leading for most of the game.

The next outing was with Port Colborne which ended in a 3-2 loss but again they were in the lead for much of the game.

Grimsby was our next opponent and our team was winning until 38 seconds left in the game when Grimsby was able to tie it up 1-1.

Despite many tries in the last 30 seconds, Pelham was unable to score again.

On Nov. 6, Shorthills Fire finally got its first win against Thorold.

Pelham's passing with the forwards of Coyne, Soh, Michael Tyler, Curtis Walton, Kyle Hoeksema, Cooper McIntee, Aiden O'Leary, Ryan Reece and Nick Reiveld was exceptional. The defense of Dylan Jones, Nick Damude, Dawson Chamberlain and Leavens were on fire with their heads up D to D passing and body checking.

Great game boys with all the hard skating.

In further action, the boys played Thorold, Grimsby Minor, Beamsville AE and Niagara Falls and were left with four losses.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Few unlucky bounces

U10 Pelham girls drop close game

For PelhamNEWS

The Giant Tiger U10 Pelham Girls played a great first game Sunday against Port Colborne. Pelhams under-aged girls were tenacious on defence, losing a close game 22-16.

Port Colborne seemed rattled throughout the game with a strong man to man, in

your face Pelham defence. If it wasn't for a few unlucky bounces around the basket, Pelham could have easily come out on top.

Kaley DeMont and Ally Sentence were impressive with their ball handling skills. Numerous times they broke down their defenders creating scoring opportunities. Lexia Poltras was relent-

less, getting loose balls and creating scoring chances for her teammates.

Jordyn Britton was strong on the boards and did a great job of letting the ball to start fast breaks.

Elizabeth Scozzafava played a highly intelligent game, putting herself in all the right spots at the right times.

Overall, the Pelham girls played a great game. The coaches and parents are extremely proud of the progress they have made since their first practice.

Thank you to our enthusiastic fans that came out to support the girls.

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■ AGRICULTURE

Good year for cash-crop farmers, grape growers

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ST. CATHARINES - It was the kind of rare year that makes farmers happy.

The weather co-operated, bringing just the right amount of sunshine and rain to fields and orchards to produce everything from great grapes to super soybeans.

For field crop producers, this year not only meant big crop volumes, but strong prices to match.

Corn is garnering about \$5 a bushel and soybeans about \$11 a bushel, which is up from last year's prices of about \$3.50 and \$7, respectively.

At White Meadows Farms in Pelham, the soybean fields were overflowed with the crop, surpassing the expectations of grower Ann Bering and her family.

After a few tough growing seasons, marked by either drought, too much rain or slumping prices, this year is

welcome, Bering said.

"Usually when we have a good harvest, we don't have good prices," said Bering, whose family grows more than 500 acres of cash crops including soybeans, corn, wheat and hay.

"This year we've had both. It's kind of a strange year. A blessing year. You need at least one of these once in a while to make you feel more optimistic."

Jerry Winnicki of Clark Agri Services Inc. in West

Lincoln said farmers have had much larger crops of corn, wheat, and soybeans than they expected.

For some growers, the harvest was 50% larger than they anticipated, leaving them scrambling to find space to store all the extra soybeans, corn and grains, he said.

"For some people, this would be the best harvest they've ever had," Winnicki said.

Winnicki said the price

surge for many field crops is due to a global shortage of farm products, such as wheat. Other parts of the world, such as Russia, were hit by drought this year.

The shrunken global supply meant commodity prices in Ontario climb leading up to harvest time -- a rarity, he said.

"Fortunately, for a change, we're at the good end of the rainbow," Winnicki said. "We've had good weather and good prices."

Grape growers are wrapping up what's being billed by many as one of the best vintages in Niagara's history.

While great in quality, this year's crop was much smaller than expected, said Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario, which represents more than 400 growers in the province.

"We didn't have the rain, so we got lower volume," said Zimmerman, adding the final tonnage numbers were not available yet.

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4. Video Sales & Rental

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pelhamthinklocal.ca

Big Bee Convenience Centre's owner, Ali Jamil, is an electrical engineer from Iraq. When the war broke out in Iraq, Jamil moved to neighboring country Jordan, and started a global internet search looking for a safe place to re-locate his family and begin a new career. One day while having lunch at an internet café in Amman, Jordan he stumbled across a web listing for a business for sale in Fonthill, Ontario Canada.

"The rest is history," explains Jamil, "I was attracted to the beauty of the area and the proximity to larger urban centres, and where Fonthill just seemed like a dream come true. I purchased the Big Bee business on-line, sight unseen."

Since taking over the Big Bee store in 2008 Ali Jamil has expanded the operations considerably. It has evolved to become a multi-faceted convenience centre. The business now boasts many new services, including state-of-the-art 10 stage reverse osmosis water filtration system, and business centre facilities in-store.

The Big Bee Convenience Centre actually houses three other businesses in addition to functioning as a traditional variety store:

- Residential and commercial use water depot with installation services for reverse osmosis, Aquacore Whole Home Water Filtration Systems, Brac Gray Water Re-Cycling Systems, Water Softeners, Water Coolers, and air filtration units and systems.
- Xerox Business Centre including color printing, photocopying, scanning, fast scan to email, faxing, CD & DVD Burning, flash memory downloading with coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cappuccino available for take out or enjoy while working at the three high speed internet stations on the premises.
- Video Rental & Sale

According to Jamil, "I try to always make sure that our prices are the most competitive current prices available in all our business categories."

During the Pelham Street re-construction phase Big Bee Convenience Centre can be reached from the temporary service road leading to the parking lot behind Mossimo's Pizzeria.



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